

that I was going to be pregnant. I am 54 years old and it hasn't happened yet and, God, don't let it happen now. But that was another prejudice that I had to put up with. And there were many of them, that same company and all of the other big companies had a policy. The men could smoke at their desk but the girls, we were never women, we were girls, the girls had to smoke on their coffee break and either go someplace where they had to spend money for a cup of coffee or stand in a smelly restroom and smoke. So you don't necessarily have to be black to know what discrimination was. I would have liked to have gone to college, so would my sisters and brothers, but because my mother had the misfortune of marrying a man who did not believe in child support, my older sisters had to work to help support the family, and, Senator, to this day, not my brother who is now deceased, nor my sisters or I ever resorted to stealing from somebody else who had earned what they had. Even if they stole it themselves from the poor, we still were taught you don't steal and you don't rob just to get what you want. You just keep plugging ahead and plodding on and, lo and behold, I believe things have gotten better, at least for women in the last fifteen or twenty years. To my knowledge, I don't think any of us did it by the means of illegal acts, unless you want to call some of the things some of the women did, marching maybe and demonstrating and boycotting, but I don't think even those were ruled as illegal. I understand where you are coming from and I understand your anger. Something else I understand is that your anger comes from frustration and what I doubt, if anybody else in this legislative body understands as much as I do, is that anger and frustration deep down inside is a great big hurt and many of us...

SENATOR BEUTLER: Fifteen seconds.

SENATOR HIGGINS: ...and many of us are unable to explain our hurt so we take it out in anger. So I am only trying to say that it took me 54 years to figure that out and now I try very hard to keep my anger and frustration at a low key and open up my mind to the fact you are not really angry, Marge, you are just hurt deep down. And, Senator, some day I hope that you come to realize that too and that not all of us are prejudiced. And I know you didn't mean your words for me.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Time is up.